

<b>Substitute for form 1449A/PTO</b>  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> (use as many sheets as necessary) Sheet 1 of 3	<b>Confirmation Number</b>	6087
	<b>Application Number</b>	09/734,787
	<b>Filing Date</b>	December 13, 2000
	<b>First Named Inventor</b>	Mark A. Ritchart
	<b>Group Art Unit</b>	3736
	<b>Examiner Name</b>	Jonathan M. Foreman
	<b>Attorney Docket Number</b>	END0712USCNT2

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		4,517,977		Richard B. Frost	05-21-1985	
		5,217,458	A	David J. Parins	06-08-1993	
		5,217,479	A	Donald K. Shuler	06-08-1993	
		5,240,011	A	Michael Assa	08-31-1993	

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Office <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	KindCode <sup>5</sup>				
		DE	935625		Bodendieck et al.	05-12-1955		
		EP	0378692	A1	Sumitomo Electric Industries, Ltd.	07-25-1990		
		EP	0442851	B1	Mauro Caponi	08-21-1991		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of U.S. Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov). <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> (use as many sheets as necessary) Sheet 2 of 3	<b>Confirmation Number</b>	6087
	<b>Application Number</b>	09/734,787
	<b>Filing Date</b>	December 13, 2000
	<b>First Named Inventor</b>	Mark A. Ritchart
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	<b>Examiner Name</b>	Jonathan M. Foreman
	<b>Attorney Docket Number</b>	END0712USCNT2

[illegible]

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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